

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179273 TOSEC 080154

FOR SECRETARY FROM MC CLOSKEY, EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:XTTU

SUBJECT:TURKEY BILL

1. AS OUTLINED IN MY DAILY ACTIVITIES REPORT, HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERS ARE TRYING TO GET THE TURKEY ISSUE UNSTUCK. TO THIS END, THEY PROPOSE TO ADD A CONGRESSIONAL VETO AS A SWEETENER ONTO THE COMPROMISE BILL NARROWLY DEFEATED IN THE HOUSE LAST THURSDAY. THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT READS AS FOLLOWS:

"(E) PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, IN THE CASE OF ANY LETTER OF OFFER TO SELL ANY DEFENSE ARTICLE OR DEFENSE SERVICE PURSUENT TO THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT OR TO FURNISH GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 FOR \$25 MILLION OR MORE, THE PRESIDENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE SENATE A STATEMENT CONTAINING (1) A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DEFENSE ARTICLE OR DEFENSE SERVICE TO BE OFFERED, (2) THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF THE PROPOSED SALE OR GRANT, (3) CONFIDENTIAL

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THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCE WHICH IS MAKING THE SALE

OR GRANT, AND (4) THE DATE ON WHICH ANY LETTER OF OFFER

TO SELL IS TO BE ISSUED OR GRANT IS TO BE MADE. THE LETTER OF OFFER SHALL NOT BE ISSUED NOR THE GRANT MADE IF THE CONGRESS, WITHIN TWENTY CALENDAR DAYS AFTER RECEIVING ANY SUCH STATEMENT, ADOPTS A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION STATING IN EFFECT THAT IT OBJECTS TO SUCH PROPOSED SALE OR GRANT."

THE COMPROMISE BILL, AS AMENDED, WOULD THEN BE APPENDED ON THE SENATE FLOOR TOMORROW TO THE BUREAU FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING BILL. WITH LUCK AND THE SPEAKER'S HELP, THE BILL COULD COME TO THE HOUSE FLOOR ON THURSDAY.

THOUGH THIS CONVOLUTED PROCESS IS LEGISLATIVELY FEASIBLE, IT RUNS THREE SEPARATE GAUNTLETS: THE SENATE TOMORROW; A POINT OF ORDER VOTE ON GERMANENESS ON THE HOUSE FLOOR; A VOTE ON ITS MERITS ON THE HOUSE FLOOR.

IT IS OPEN TO QUESTION WHETHER THE VOTES ARE THERE IN ANY OF THE THREE STAGES, BUT PARTICULARLY IN THE HOUSE. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS THE APPROACH CONGRESSIONAL PROTAGONISTS HAVE ADOPTED AND, AT THIS LATE HOUR, IS THE ONLY AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVE TO DOING NOTHING. I SHOULD ALSO ADD THAT A NUMBER OF MEMBERS CANVASSED OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS INDICATE THEY COULD SUPPORT A TURKEY BILL IF THERE WERE SOME SIGNIFICANT CHANGE GIVING THEM AN EXCUSE TO SWITCH THEIR VOTE. INGERSOLL

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